

The Downman

February 2011



Trophy winners in the MXT bowling league

The Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge

Including: Woodyates, Deanland and Minchington

Published by Sixpenny Handley Parish Council

Delivered by Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Sixpenny Handley Horticultural Show

Chairman	Brian Hansford	552468
Secretary	Carole Wyatt	552572
Entries	Tony Gibb	552704
<u>Schools</u>		
First School	Handley First School	552356
Middle School	Cranborne Middle School	517348
Upper School	Queen Elizabeth's School	
	Wimborne	01202 885233

Little Pennies Pre-School

Chairperson	Sarah Stonton	516939
Secretary	Andrea Meyer	552392

Little Pennies Pre-School Link Group

Contact Tilly Stevens 552046

Happy Nappy Club

Samantha O'Neill	552088
Katie Keeble	552177
Sarah Styles	552544

1st Woodcutts Scout Group

Group Scout Leader	John Curtis	552397
Explorer Leader	Andy Turner	552735
Scout Leader	Rob Easton	552038
Cub Leader	Andy Young	553166
Beaver Leader	Denise Turner	552735

1st Sixpenny Handley Rainbows

Unit Guider	Jacqui Tarran	552008
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Sixpenny Handley W.I. (Formed in 1922)

President	Mrs Maggie Staplehurst	552795
Secretary	Mrs Bobbie Carter ...	552042

Sixpenny Handley Mother's Union

Leader	Sheila Bradley	553133
Secretary	Mary Macleod	552041

Chase Community Friends

Chairman	Vic Hatton	01258 840671
Secretary	Maureen Penrose	01725 552022

Sixpenny Handley Sports Association

Chairman	David Cross	552640
Vice Chairman	Patrick Taylor	552187
Secretary/Treasurer	Tracey Lownds	552414
Bookings	Bea Boyland	552805

Sixpenny Handley Bowls Club

President	Colin Mardlin	552810
Secretary	Bea Boyland	552805
Treasurer	Patrick Taylor	552187

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch

Handley Sports Club

Co-ordinators

Area 1 - Dean Lane	Don Penrose	552022
2 - Lower Handley	Chris Stokes	552672
3 - Upper Handley	John Clarke	552674
4 - Deanland & N.E.	Charles Nodder	552292
5 - West & South	Simon Meaden	552715

Other Areas (These are separate Homewatch Schemes)

Chairman	Tracey Lownds	552414
Membership/Treasurer	Sue Smith	552225

Police

07825 521735

Sixpenny Handley Allotment Holders Association

Chairman	John Curtis	552397
Secretary	Jane Laing	553146

Citizens Advice Bureau

Wimborne Branch	01202 884738
Ferndown Branch	01202 893838
Out of Hours Service	08444 772022

Welcome to the latest edition of *The Downsman*.

Editor: Margaret Cornish, Parish Office, Unit 5B, Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley
Email: editor@thedownsman.org.uk

Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council

Parish Office: Unit 5B Town Farm Workshops	Opening Hours: Tuesday 10am – 12 noon Thursday 6pm – 7-30pm	Phone: 552211 Email : sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk
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Please email editor@thedownsman.org.uk
 to ensure your articles and news reach us
 (preferably in Word, please — not pdf)

Advertising Costs

The rates to advertise in **The Downsman** are:

Full page - £16

Half page - £10

Quarter page - £5

Our offer of book 6 but only pay for 5 insertions continues with the annual rates (6 issues) being **£80**, **£50** and **£25** respectively.

The magazine offers excellent value in reaching your local customers.

We currently deliver **The Downsman** to approximately
 700 households within the parish.

We regret that flyers cannot be distributed within the Downsman.

The next edition of this magazine will be published on the
1st April 2011

Copy Deadline is Tuesday 15th March

**We would also ask that contributors make every effort to meet the
 deadline which is required to allow for printing, production
 and distribution**

Views expressed in this magazine are those of our correspondents and contributors and do not
 necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Editor or Members of Sixpenny Handley
 with Pentridge Parish Council.

This publication does not endorse the products or services advertised within.

CLERK'S CORNER

Sixpenny Handley Information Network

The Parish Council believe that our community could benefit considerably from an internet-based information exchange system. The Downsman is a magnificent community magazine, but as it is only published every two months it cannot provide 'hot news' such as police updates on criminal activity in our area or burst water mains and so on. The idea is to have an email information network registered through the Parish Office. Discrete limited experiments have been tried out and have produced very positive responses. Anyone who is interested in signing up to participate for a trial period, please email the Parish Office – sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk – and provide details of your name, phone number, email and postal address.

2011 Local Government Elections

The next Parish Council elections are scheduled for Thursday 5th May. Some of the present Councillors may be standing down. There are seven seats in the Sixpenny Handley ward and four in Pentridge (the latter includes the villages of East and West Woodyates). To ensure there is an election, a minimum of eight candidates for Sixpenny Handley and four for Pentridge are essential together with a good turnout on the day. If you feel up to the challenge and would like to know more of what is involved, then please contact the Parish Office and speak to the Clerk, Gill Martin, or a Councillor. Alternatively, if you know anyone who you think might be interested then speak with them and encourage them to do the same.

Bus Passes for over 60s

I have received two letters to pass on to our County Councillor at the present, does this mean that nobody minds that they may be limited in the hours that they can use them?

Recent Planning Applications

- 3/10/1018 - Town Farm Bungalow, Sixpenny Handley - Erect replacement dwelling and detached double garage.
- 3/10/1119 - 6 Chase Crescent, Woodcutts - Erect rear conservatory.
- 3/10/1190 - Dean Cross Cottage, Woodcutts - Single storey extension (demolish existing)

Results of previous planning applications

- 3/10/0675 - 8 Littlefield Lane - Erect double garage - Permitted.
- 3/10/0699 - Church Farm - Relief from Condition 4 of planning permission 3/06/0085 and Condition 3 of Planning permission 3/07/883 – Permitted.
- 3/10/0744 - Hill House - Change of use of residential outbuilding to an office providing legal services - Permitted.

Gill Martin

To all readers of The Downsman

I lost my husband, Colin, aged 54, to prostate cancer last October and during his last few months we were cared for as a family by the wonderful team at Salisbury Hospice. I honestly do not know how we would have managed without the continuously cheerful care and support offered by the whole team. Colin was treated with dignity and respect and his every need was attended to. I was able to spend day and night with him and our four children and Staffy dog were catered for too, literally with a constant stream of kindness, tea and biscuits, and in the last days even camp beds and hot showers! Nothing can take the pain away from us of losing Colin, but we, as a family, wanted to do something to raise money so that other families in need can benefit from the hospice support.

So throughout the weekend of March 25th we are competing in the **Clocktower Challenge**, which is a self-funded driving rally through Europe. We will donate every penny of our sponsorship to the hospice. If anyone would be kind enough to offer some sponsorship then this can be done by visiting the website for justgiving/juliehuxtable or by calling me on 01725 553141.

If anyone is due to receive hospice care or just wants to know more about my family's experience with the hospice, then please call me on the above number and I will be happy to talk about it. I knew nothing about the hospice until Colin was terminally ill and I was nervous and ignorant of how much better their care would make us feel. Please ask me anything you wish and I hope I can allay any fears you might have

Julie Huxtable (Mrs)

Thank you

Dee and Alistair Broadway would like to thank Dr Morgan and all the staff at the Handley Surgery for all their kindness, care and support during the past year towards Brian, Dee's much-loved son.

Also, we would like to thank everyone for the help, flowers, cards and letters we received offering so much love and support during his illness and after Brian's death. We would also like to thank everyone at 'The Shed' for the excellent refreshments after Brian's funeral.

Please accept this letter of thanks from us both.

Dee and Alistair Broadway

Thank you

John and Sue Curtis would like to thank everyone for the messages of sympathy following the recent death of Betty Weeks (Mum). Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

Thank you

Liz Coombs and Stella Olsen would like to thank all those who helped us and for the marvellous support from everyone who braved the treacherous weather conditions on 4th December to make our coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care such a success.

We raised £670 on the day, and with further donations, have a grand total of £890.

Special thanks go to Ben Coombs and Olive Orman for clearing a path through the ice and snow from the Village Hall car park to the Sports Pavilion.

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.

Congratulations to the bowlers

I would like to congratulate all the players who took part in the MXT League last summer. As most of you will know by now, we won the Trophy! I'm so sorry if I had to keep on at you to play - I shall be after you all again this year to see if we can keep up the good work. I hope I will be able to play this year, although some seem to think we won because I didn't play! Happy bowling!

Pat

Trussell Trust Update

Great news! The total number of Shoeboxes sent from The Trussell Trust in Salisbury to Bulgaria this year was **5,296**, an increase on last year's total of 1,414! The biggest increase has been from the churches. Can we do even better next year?

Trish Chorley

To whom it may concern

Please could dog owners kindly pick up or prevent their dogs from fouling the pavements in Handley, especially between the Post Office and The Village Shop!? I notice there are one or two signs to remind people of this stating quite clearly that it could lead to a £500 fine. Unfortunately, they are mainly placed at each end of the village, The offenders are mainly in the early morning!

Anthony

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Complete our local team

...Become a Parish or
Town Councillor

Find out what your councillors do

Before the next elections on 5th May 2011 why not come to a Parish Council meeting and see what goes on? For dates, keep an eye on the parish notice board. **YOU, TOO, COULD BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR** if you are over 18 and live within 3 miles of this parish. Contact the Clerk on 552211 or sixpennyhandley@dorsetparishes.gov.uk.

The Living Churchyard

The Editor,

Further to the letter from Mrs Grace Jackson in the December 2010 issue of The Downsman, I write to thank Mr George Jackson, Mrs Mary Bishop and all other helpers for their hard work clearing the overgrown areas of St Mary's churchyard. Also, congratulations to Mr Jackson on receiving a 'Very Highly Commended' certificate from the Living Churchyards project.

Hopefully, this standard can now be maintained to make all graves accessible for visitors from near and far.

Obviously St Mary's churchyard attracts wildlife being located in such a rural setting and, together with the seasonal wildflowers, is a fitting, peaceful, final resting place for our dearly departed.

Stella Olsen (Mrs)

The Editor,

I wish to protest at the use of my name, and that of a Miss Starr, whom I have never met, in the Living Churchyard article on page 5 of the December 2010 issue of The Downsman.

It is obvious that we have been singled out for our disapproval of the present state of Handley Churchyard, to which I have no regrets. The suggestion that I should contact Mr Cox, or the Dorset Wildlife Trust for information, but for what reason? I would point out to Mrs Grace Jackson, Ted Cox, or anyone else for that matter that I have expressed no wish to be part of the Living Churchyard Project.

This is still a free country, where freedom of speech is permissible providing it falls within the legal laws of the land. Everyone has the right to express their own opinion.

Peter Bailey

PLEASE NOTE

All correspondence relating to the subject of the Living Churchyard is now closed. *Editor*

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Jacob Austin

Well done on your overall 2nd place in the championship for Poole and Parkstone MX club. We are all very proud, not just with your results this season, but with your dedication, your attitude to other riders and your determination to do well in a very hard and competitive sport. Looking forward to next season as you go into a larger and faster group and seeing you achieve your goals.

Lots of love from
Dad, Mum, Zoe, Glenn, Fiona, Harvey, Granny and Norm xx

Mobile Library Schedule - Visits on Thursday Fortnightly

Woodyates – Copley Close	2.25 – 2.40
Back Lane/St Mary's Close	3.00 – 3.20
Roebuck Inn	3.25 – 3.45
Dean Lane	3.50 – 4.05
Sheasby Close	4.10 – 4.30

February 3rd, 17th
March 3rd, 17th, 31st April 14th



SIXPENNY HANDLEY WI JUMBLE SALE

Sat 26th Feb

Doors open at 2.30 pm

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL

Lots of Stalls

Tombola

Raffle

Entrance 20p

Items for sale may be brought to the Hall after 10.00 am on the day
For collections beforehand ring Stella on 552236 or Jan on 552704.

Sorry, no large furniture

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

2011 will start with a bang at 7.30 pm on 11th Feb. Another cabaret evening in the hall promises a real *Local History* event when Benjamin's Book reveals the intrigues of life in the Blackmore Vale through music and storytelling. Come, enjoy and support **your** village hall; without your support the future of these live events are seriously in doubt.

Unfortunately the Race evening that was planned for January had to be cancelled at short notice due to factors beyond our control. We will endeavour to reorganise it in April.

Hall Users: All hall users are reminded that they are members of the management committee and should send representatives to meetings.

NEW KITCHEN: We regret that there will be a certain amount of disruption during the second half February when the old kitchen is replaced with more modern units and a dishwasher. Users of the main hall should not be affected.

Tim Laycock & Colin Thompson
present **BENJAMIN'S BOOK**



Tim and Colin present a new musical show based on a recently discovered manuscript book of fiddle tunes from the Blackmore Vale.
A FEAST OF STORYTELLING, FOLKSONG, PUPPETRY AND LOCAL HISTORY!

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL
Fri 11 February, 7:30pm
£7, £6 (u18s), **£20** (fam 4 - max 2 adults) on door, if available,
or in advance from **Tony Gibb: 01725 552704**
Artbreach or **Sixpenny Handley P.O.**
LICENSED BAR



Monday 21st February at 4.30 pm

Doors open 4.00 pm

Puppetcraft presents

'The Mousehole Cat'

Based on the award-winning book by Antonia Barber, and inspired by folk legend, this story is set in the Cornish fishing village of Mousehole, where a storm has been raging for weeks. Everyone is hungry as the boats cannot leave the harbour to fish, so old Tom and his cat, Mowzer, set out to sea in their tiny boat, braving the storm, to try and save the village. This charming tale is brought to life with carved wooden puppets, live music, song, a stunning set and lighting.

Performed by PuppetCraft, the masterful Devon-based company noted for beautifully crafted puppets, original music and for making shows that appeal to the whole family. **Recommended for 4 to 11 year olds (not for under 4yrs).** The show lasts for an hour.

There is an opportunity for a small number of children to take part in the production; they must arrive at the hall by 4.00 pm.

'THE SHED'
CHURCH FARM
CARAVAN AND CAMPING PARK

High Street, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 5ND.

PROPRIETOR: Steve Judd.

TELEPHONE: 01725 553005/01725 552563 Louisa Judd Mobile: 07525 928908

EMAIL: churchfarmcandcpark@yahoo.co.uk or theshedchurchfarm@yahoo.co.uk

Valentine's Dinner

Saturday 12th February

Live Music

Acoustic Group 'Nothing but Trouble'

Valentine's Menu

£9.95 for 2 Courses; £13.95 for 3 Courses

Pre-order & £5 per person deposit required.

Contact us for a menu or download it from the website

WINTER OPENING TIMES

WEDNESDAY SENIOR'S LUNCH

1230pm - 230pm

£4 for 2 courses; £4.50 for 3 courses.

WEDNESDAY STEAK NIGHT 6-9pm

FRIDAY NIGHT - FISH & CHIPS, etc 6-9pm

Eat in or Take Away.

SUNDAY ROAST 1200pm - 230pm

Booking recommended. Only £6.99!

Licensed bar open during food service.

Forthcoming Events:

5th March Mexican Theme Evening

3rd April Mother's Day Lunch

We also cater for tailor-made functions!

Contact us for more information or visit our website for further details.

www.churchfarmcandcpark.co.uk

Mothers' Union

We have had two meetings since the last Downsman came out. Our Christmas meeting on 9th December took the form of readings/jokes/poems, which members brought along. What a variety we had! Afterwards, we ate Christmas nibbles. It was our AGM on 13th January which was followed by a hunt through the Bible for entries relating to food, organised by Mary Macleod. Some of us had to resort to the index to locate obscure references! It was good fun.

A large number of items donated by members were taken, before Christmas, to Church House to be passed on to the Women's Refuge in Salisbury. We will continue to support them.

It is with joy that I quote: "Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union has been asked to chair the Independent Review of the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood. The review has been commissioned by Sarah Teather, MP, the Minister for Children and Families, and is part of a strong commitment made by both David Cameron and Nick Clegg to give a real measure of support to Family Life."

We are all so pleased to see the MU yet again at the forefront of national life.

Any enquiries about MU? Please phone Sheila (553133) or Mary (552401).



PCC Secretary for

Pentridge:

Maureen Swann (552561)

Sixpenny Handley:

Mark Wolstenholme (552388)

Who can vote ?

Who can attend ?

Anyone on the electoral roll of the parish church

The United Benefice of Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and Pentridge

Notice of "AGMs"

Notice of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Vestry Meetings to elect Churchwardens in each Parish

The Parish of Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew is to meet in St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley after the 9.30am service (approx. 10.45am) on Sunday 24th April 2011

— and —

The Parish of Pentridge is to meet in St Rumbold's Church, Pentridge at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26th April 2011

Nominations for the Office of Churchwarden together with a seconder and the signed agreement of the Proposed Person should be made in writing to be received at The Vicarage, 60 High Street, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury SP5 5ND and endorsed "Churchwarden Nomination (parish...)". To be received at least two days before the appropriate meeting.

Qualifications for the Office and nomination forms are available from Parish's Parochial Church Council Hon Secretary (see left) or from our website archive.

www.handleychurch.org.uk

Village Hall 100 Club Winners

November

1st	£25	27	Mr S. Preedy
2nd	£15	66	Sarah Churchill
3rd	£10	29	Mrs B. Styles

December

1st	£25	7	Mrs J. Salmons
2nd	£15	111	Mrs S. Clarke
3rd	£10	12	Bowls Club

The 100 Club is run in aid of the Village Hall.
If you would like to join for £1 a month, please contact Bea Boyland on 552805.

A very Happy New Year to all our customers and thanks for supporting your local brewery during 2010.

Your local independent brewery supplies traditional cask ales for you to take away, supplied in disposable containers of 1 pint, 2 pint or 4 pint sizes, all freshly filled directly from the cask while you wait. We aim to have a least three cask ales available to buy at any one time, but we very often have as many as six different ales to choose from! All of which are brewed here in Sixpenny Handley! We also supply 18 and 36 pint beer in a box containers, which are ideal for parties etc. (Notice req'd) We have recently started bottling our beers in small runs, which are (at time of writing) only available from the brewery shop until we are able to increase production.

Our brewery shop and small bar is open mainly for off sales, however you are welcome to call in for a drink on site, or free tastings when we are open! Beers are priced from £1.50 to £2.25 a pint depending on container sizes for off sales. Beer is priced at £2.90 a pint for on sales.

You can also sample our beers on draught at many pubs and bars locally, the very nearest to the brewery being The Roebuck Inn, High St, Sixpenny Handley and Church Farm Campsite.

All this information and much more is available on our website www.sixpennybrewery.co.uk



SHOP & BAR OPENING HOURS

Monday - CLOSED

Tuesday - CLOSED

Wednesday 4.30 pm - 5.30pm

Thursday 4.30 pm - 5.30pm

Friday 4 pm - 6pm

Saturday 11 am - 12.30 pm

Sunday - CLOSED

OUR BEERS 4

TASTING NOTES 6d



Sixpenny Original 3.6% abv

A traditional Dorset bitter, brewed with the finest floor malbed Maris Otter barley. A baked biscuit malt character, well hopped to provide an excellent balance of flavours, with a tingering soft bitter finish.



Sixpenny Best Bitter 4% abv

This is our flagship session ale. A good all round well balanced and marshy ale with a full bodied flavour and matching hop bitterness, that leads to a long dry throat quenching finish.



Sixpenny Gold 4.2% abv

A superb golden ale, slightly citrus, with a distinctive hoppy floral aroma, easy drinking with a soft bitter sweet finish. Brewed using a blend of American and German hops.



Sixpenny Special 5% abv "Award winning"

A characterful, traditional strong best bitter. Deep in colour, with a full bodied slightly fruity, malt flavour and a satisfying long finish. Winner of "Beer of the festival" at Salisbury Beers 2010.



CAMRA
CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



Ales of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Tel: 01725 762006 or 07956 531618 email: mail@sixpennybrewery.co.uk



News And Information

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

On Friday 19th November, W.I. members, with some husbands in tow, enjoyed another evening of skittles at The Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton. There was plenty of laughter, chat and, of course, a meal of sausage and chips! The winning lady was Jean Maidment and the winning gentleman was Michael Carter. A very sociable and fun session.

The Christmas meeting this year was on December 13th. The entertainment was in-house with a selection of familiar songs performed by the Sixpenny Handley W.I. Choir as well as some readings and poems read by other members. There was, of course, the usual grand spread of festive food, washed down with a glass of wine, and a Christmas raffle. It was a fun evening enjoyed by everyone.

On 15th December, the Group Carol Service was held at Tarrant Gunville. Meg Cox from Sixpenny Handley W.I. read one of the lessons and the service was well attended and enjoyed by all.

On January 10th, the speaker was Vivienne Endecott, who spoke passionately about Enid Blyton. Her talk 'Five Cheers for Enid Blyton' portrayed her as one of the most successful children's storytellers of the twentieth century, writing an estimated 700-plus books in roughly 40 years. Her many books, designed for different age groups, have enjoyed success in many parts of the world. It was certainly an interesting session, bringing back many childhood memories to our members.

Dates for the Diary

February 14 th	Not Dead Again	Mrs Pauline Giles
February 26 th	JUMBLE SALE in the Village Hall	
March 14 th	Fairtrade Workshops – India and Nepal	Ms J Rake

Anyone who would like to attend a meeting or would like more information, please contact the Secretary, Mrs Bobbie Carter. Tel 01725 552042

Rita Taylor (Committee Member)

Bowls Club

As usual, this time of the year has been a busy time for most of us.

In October we had a friendly match at Dinton which was good fun and everybody enjoyed the game and the tea and raffle afterwards.

At the end of November we had our annual lunch and prize giving. This time it was held in the Langton Arms, and it was very successful. Thank you very much, Val, for organising this. Our new President, Colin, handed out all the prizes and cups. Congratulations to all the winners of the season. We also had certificates for the triple teams who had had Hot Shots this season. This is not something that happens very often! Well done, all of you!

The quiz night on the 4th of December was, despite the bad weather, very well attended. Congratulations to the winners - Hens and Stags - with 95 points and the runners up, Keats Clan. And, of course, thank you very much, Peter, for all your hard work in finding new

questions every time! How do you do it?! Also to Colin and all the helpers who make this evening run so well. We made about £400 for the club.

We had to change the day of our Hamper competition because of the bad weather, and instead held it on the Sunday after New Years' day, which was, after all, a good choice as a lot of people turned up and it made a very nice afternoon. Congratulations to Ann who won the hamper, Brian, the runner up, George, who came third and Clifford fourth.

We are now starting our league matches again, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we might win some matches! The A team is doing quite well so far, but the Tanners could do better! On the first Sunday in February we have our singles and in March our pairs competition, so please try to come to those if you can. Good luck for the rest of the season.

Bea

The Ancient Technology Centre, Cranborne



NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ancient Technology Centre has a fantastic new website:

www.ancienttechnologycentre.co.uk

Please visit our website for a full listing of events and activities

A Weekend of Hedge Laying and Hurdle making - 5th and 6th February 2011

Come and join us to learn the basics of Hurdle Making and Hedge Laying. We will start by visiting a local coppice to harvest some materials before returning to the centre to learn either of these crafts. On Sunday we will do the same again giving you the opportunity to do one or both of the courses. All food will be provided.

The cost is £75 per course including food. We can also give you the unique opportunity to stay in our Viking Longhouse for £20. Special offer - both courses including accommodation: £160. Call Pascale on 01725 517618 to book your place.

'Work with the Ancients' - 25th February 2011 (10am - 4pm)

A BBC 'Hands on History' Open Day at the Ancient Technology Centre

Come and have a go at making fire, cave painting, creating a carving, moving a monolith, storytelling and many more activities for families. Homemade cakes and local beef burgers as well as coffee, tea or hot mulled apple juice available in the Longhouse. Remember to bring warm clothes and wellies.

Free entry to this event. Call Pascale on 01725 517618 for any additional information.

Details on our website and other related activities at www.bbc.co.uk/history

Ancient Days: Springtime - 12th March 2011 (10am - 4pm)

The worst of the winter is over and the trees are in bud. Spring is the season for breaking the ground with ploughs and sowing the crops for the coming year. Come to the Ancient Technology Centre and help us prepare and plough the ground for a range of ancient crops. Children and adults can try their hand at using an Iron Age ard, Roman ploughing, sowing, building a hayrick, helping to build our cob wall, making a Suffolk hurdle and net making. Visitors can also purchase beautifully hand-crafted leatherwork, pewter and horn wares, haversacks, replica beads and coins from *The Trade Tent*. Then tuck into our homemade cakes and local beef burgers in the Longhouse while enjoying a cup of hot tea, coffee or mulled apple juice. Remember to bring warm clothes and wellies.

Tickets on the door: Adults £4.00 / Children £2.00

Call Pascale on 01725 517618 for any additional information.

'The Harper's Trade' Storytelling with Nick Hennessey - Saturday 9th April 2011 from 7.30pm

An energetic and enthralling performance, turning on the simple power of word and song. In every song there is a story, and in the heart of every story there is a song. Singer, songwriter, storyteller and musician Nick Hennessey explores the common ground between the spoken word and the song, the note and the phrase, drawing together Finnish epic, British ballads and his own compositions. An evening of powerful stories and rich images held on the shimmering note.

Tickets: £10 for adults; £5 for 16 and under - suitable for children 12 years and up.

Call East Dorset Heritage Trust on 01202 888992 for tickets.



The Ancient Technology Centre, Damerham Road, Cranborne, Dorset BH21 5RP

Tel 01725 517618

www.ancienttechnologycentre.co.uk



Open Weekends - Ancient Days - Storytellings - Tours - Volunteering projects - Corporate Days

School visits - Residentials - Outreach to Schools - Learning Centres - Ancient Skills Courses

Deer at Woodcutts

The longer I live, the more I realise how little I know, and it isn't a case of forgetfulness coming with age. As children, we were taught to recognise our elders as our superiors; now I am not so sure that this is the situation, especially in the case of modern technology such as computers and mobile phones etc. where my grandchildren seem to know a lot more about them than I do. What has brought on this doubt? Well, I understand that we can't know everything, but to find out something that you have always thought to be correct but isn't, is a bit of a 'bummer', if I can use the term. For years now, I have assumed that I know a fair bit about the countryside, but when I saw the 'herd' of deer at Woodcutts and decided to write about it, I started to look up things to make sure that I didn't put my foot in it, and wasn't I glad that I had!

The deer were fallow and I had to decide if the males were stags or bucks. They are, in fact, stags, as are red and sika males, while roe males are bucks. Then there is the naming of the females; which are hinds and which are does? As far as I can tell the female fallow, red and sika are hinds, while those of the roe are does. Having got this reasonably straight, what is a hart? We have all seen a pub called the White Hart, but unless there is a painted sign hanging outside, we don't know whether the hart is male or female, or to which species it belongs to.

I don't know why, but I always assumed a hart to be female. How wrong could I be! A hart is, in fact, a red deer stag of at least five years old, or so the dictionary tells me. Now what has brought all this contention about deer on? Well, on several occasions recently I have noticed a number of deer grazing the winter cereals in the field immediately to the west of Chase Crescent. (This was before the snow came in the middle of December). They are fallow and in considerable numbers, although I was unable to count them accurately because they were too distant and were constantly on the move. So I went home to collect my camera and despite being a good two hundred yards away, I could count them on the enlarged picture, even though they were constantly scared by passing traffic. There were, in fact, twenty-six animals, of which only one was an antlered stag. The others were in various sizes and shades from almost black to virtually white, presumably female.

Fallow deer come in a variety of shades and colours. Richard Prior in his book 'Living with Deer' describes them as follows, "Not all fallow have the white spotted coat of the common park type. They can, in fact, be several shades of brown, or nearly black, and white fallow are not uncommon. A white deer is not necessarily an albino, although these do occur. To have a white individual in a herd is no comfort to the rest. Such a beast is easily seen at a distance, and once the

eye has been caught it soon distinguishes the others, who might otherwise have remained unseen. The knowledgeable poacher leaves these Judas deer, so that they will help him again on future lawless occasions."

Fallow deer, as a species, are grazers and as such, in the autumn can be seen in fields of winter cereals feeding. At this time of year they can benefit the farmer as, by grazing the cereal shoots or tillers, they cause the individual plant to produce even more new tillers, often doubling the number that was there originally. This, if no further damage occurs, can mean that many more ears of corn are produced and harvested. In fact, the fallow deer are mainly nocturnal feeders and will normally only be seen grazing early morning or late evening, although on this occasion the herd was grazing in the early afternoon.

They were extremely restless when grazing in this exposed site and true to type, the ones I saw were constantly turning around and looking in all directions, especially when cars passed some two hundred yards away on the Tollard/Handley road. Obviously, this constant turning in circles does compact the ground but at this time of year this process of soil compaction is beneficial to the crop on these light, chalky soils. In fact, in the past, it was quite usual for cereal farmers, who were also sheep farmers, to graze off their winter cereals with their flocks to encourage tillering and to consolidate the ground to prevent drying out or the washing of soil from the roots of young plants in heavy rain. The dung also fertilised the crop.

Later in the year it will not be appreciated if a herd of this size grazes on a cereal crop because the crop, which should be standing to enable it to be harvested, will be flattened by the constantly moving animals and, of course, many ears will be eaten. This is where professional deer management comes in. Deer numbers must be regulated and this area is blessed with its deer management team. Selective culling is essential so that damage can be minimised and only fit and well animals survive in the right age categories and the correct male/female ratio maintained. This is not only the case for the fallow deer but wild deer in general, although the other prominent species in this area, the roe, causes more trouble in woodland because it browses on the trees and shrubs of the woodland rather than grazing in open areas on grass and cereals. It also creates problems with its 'fraying'. When its new antlers grow, the buck has to remove the external dying skin, known as 'velvet', from them by rubbing against small trees and in doing so takes the bark from the tree. Not content with this, it loves to 'fray' young trees throughout the seasons, removing the bark simply for the sake of it. For this reason the forester does not want roe deer in his new plantations so, again, culling is essential. It is man

(Continued on page 16)

attempting to balance nature since all natural predators of the deer have long since been eradicated. When was the last wolf seen in the area?

It is just as well there aren't any natural predators left otherwise there would be a problem with calves and lambs born outside, although with outside lambing, foxes can still be a problem with ewes that lamb in remote places. Today, of course, much of lambing takes place indoors, as I recently found out.

Meg (Madge) and I went up to spend Christmas and the New Year with children and grandchildren on a farm just outside Fetcham, near Leatherhead in Surrey, where there is a small flock of Dorset Down ewes which were due to lamb from 29th. December onwards. We arrived on the 23rd and one ewe had already lambed and everyone available was busy selling turkeys (they produced over 5,000 for the Christmas market) and preparing for the holiday (they also have two butchers' shops). I was left holding the baby - or should it have been babies! By mid afternoon a ewe was obviously in trouble and with no one else available I was called in to what I thought was to be a reasonable routine lambing. In fact it wasn't like those we had seen recently on TV when Kate Humble was involved. No: having reached into the ewe's uterus, I knew I had a multiple birth on my hands! There were heads and legs everywhere, but I wasn't prepared for the quintuplets that she had, three alive and two born dead. I had never been present when quins had been born before and most people, when told, did not believe it. You are never too old to learn, but in this case it was a situation where age and experience did come in handy. The knowledge of a computers or mobile phone's functions would not have been much use in this situation! Some of the old things, such as experience, do come in useful after all.

Many of the old sayings also have a place in our lives today. One such saying from the agricultural past is

about the sowing of seeds. It says, 'Four seeds you have to sow; one for the rook and one for the crow, one to die and one to grow'. In December 2010, after up to two weeks covered by snow many more seeds may have died this year, especially if the deer had damaged some of the young plants produced by the seeds beforehand.

It is not only deer that cause damage either. In the late 1960s I went to Ireland to manage some 2000 acres of flat land reclaimed from Wexford harbour, which had become the over-wintering site for thousands of geese and hundreds of swans. We grew over a thousand acres of winter wheat. In England, I had been used to sowing winter wheat at one and a quarter hundredweights to the acre, whereas on this Irish farm, two and a half hundredweights was the norm; half to grow the crop and half for the geese and swans. This meant that an extra sixty-odds tons of seed were needed each autumn. (Please note this was in the times of imperial weights not metric tonnes as of today, although I don't suppose the birds cared one way or the other).

Now I must apologise to my readers for the rather longer script than normal. I did start writing earlier than usual and I should be well within the Downsman deadline. (Please excuse the boasting. {*And, yes, Ted was well within the deadline. Editor*}) Next time I hope to bring you all up-to-date with the human changes at Woodcutts with the annual census, which hasn't been available for several years because of government cut backs. Until then, thank you for reading thus far and a Happy New Year. God bless you all.

Ted Cox (Dec 2010)

(Please note the date, I am well ahead of schedule)

Birds coming back to feed on our bird table are in considerable numbers at the present moment because there is snow on the ground. (It is the last day of November—isn't that a feather in my cap!)

Model Transport Focus 2011

at

Sixpenny Handley Village Hall

Saturday 19th March

10.00 am—4.00 pm Admission Free

This year, the biennial informal get-together is for anyone interested in transport. Whether you have an active or armchair interest in railways, planes, tractors, lorries, buses or boats (or should that be ships), you should find something to enjoy. This is chiefly a DIY day. If you have a model tucked away in the attic or on the mantelpiece, then bring it along and share it with others. If you have a query or a model problem then this is the place to come.

Further details contact: Bob Keech on 01725 516216 (at any reasonable hour)

Email: bob@sitesavers.fsbusiness.co.uk



Sixpenny Handley

Sixpenny Handley Homewatch November / December 2010



Sixpenny Handley

The midwinter period seems to have been relatively crime-free for our Parish, which is the good news. Less encouraging are signs that police spending cuts may be felt most heavily by rural areas, particularly those, like ours, where crime rates are comparatively very low. No decisions have been made in relation to local policing as we go to press, but we fear that news, when it comes, may not be good. As a Homewatch we worked hard to help increase police presence in our Parish some years ago, with notable success, and it will be sad if inevitably scarce resources lead to policing cuts in the future. If it does happen, however, self-help in relation to crime avoidance and reporting could become even more important for us all.

In that context, the Homewatch team greatly welcomes the Parish Council's intention to trial a village email information system (see Clerk's Corner on page 4). It will give us an opportunity to share, by email, the warnings and crime reports we receive from the police, usually at least once a week, and also to pass on our own crime prevention information more frequently than the bi-monthly appearance the Downsman allows. The more ways we have to share information as a community, the safer we can be, so we wish the trial well and urge as many who have email as possible to join in and use the system sensibly so that it can be of value to everyone.

No further news has emerged on the idea of local Homewatch schemes having to contribute to the local police costs of servicing them. We feel this is a complete non-starter for Sixpenny Handley (see last issue) and have now said as much to Dorset Police, but we will keep you informed if the idea appears to be going any further.

Please be aware of further reports from around north Dorset of distraction thefts by criminals working in pairs or teams. In one recent example someone posed as a water official checking domestic supplies after the prolonged frost, and whilst going round the home with the owner, an accomplice entered the vacant rooms and collected up valuables. This is typical of the opportunistic nature of these distraction crimes, which are never far from us, so just be aware and don't be the one who gets taken for a ride. Report any suspicions to the police immediately.

Finally, a word about litter. It still gets dumped around the village, presumably by an antisocial minority of locals. As well as being unpleasant for those good enough to pick it up and bin it, dumping litter is a crime, so don't do it and, if you get the chance and feel able, make a point to those you see making a mess of the place. If we work as a community on this we should be able to crack it.

1st Woodcutts



Volunteer Warden Needed

Do you have some spare time to help out the Scouts?

Once the new HQ has been completed we will be needing someone to help out in the capacity of Warden. Duties would include: checking in and out anyone hiring the HQ (ensuring that the building is ready for occupation and properly cleaned out after each use); managing the bookings calendar; periodic checks of the buildings and grounds and keeping an eye out for any maintenance tasks that might be needed.

If you think that you could help out in this role, then please contact
John Curtis (Group Scout Leader) on 552397 or Toby Cullen (Chairman) on 552770.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY VILLAGE HALL JUMBLE SALE Sat 26th March

Doors open at 2.30pm

Entrance 20p

Lots of Stalls, Tombola, Raffle

Items for sale may be brought to the Hall after 10.00 am on the day
For collections beforehand ring Carole on 552572 or Tony on 552704.
Sorry, no large furniture



Next: 10th March



Sixpenny Handley Village Hall
Doors Open 7pm
Start 7.30PM

Tea/coffee and home-made cakes



Future Dates: 28th April

Call your friends and join us for a great evening of fun and prizes!

All proceeds to The Little Pennies Pre-School. Registered Charity no. 1137622

COUNTRY RAMBLES

The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it for those who come after. KING GEORGE VI

I said in my last article that a frost would give me a good tilth on the vegetable plot: well the snow and ice have meant the ground was frozen for nearly a fortnight so that should have killed the weeds. The downside is that the water butt froze and cracked and needs to be replaced. The dogs loved the fresh deep snow; even the old man, now 13 years old, cavorted and skipped around, and rolled, seemingly enjoying cold on his coat. Once the first fall had laid I went out looking for tracks as the blank white canvas provides an ideal opportunity to see what is running around. I was particularly keen to see where the rat runs were around the barns, but the activity was very limited which either means that they are elsewhere or that my efforts to reduce the population in the autumn have been successful!

The end of the shooting season is near and its time to stock the freezer with pheasant and partridge. It is such good, cheap meat and at this time of the year the birds are at their heaviest. There are a number of old wives' tales about game, such as leaving it to hang until it is almost rotten, or being so full of lead shot that you break your teeth, which put people off trying game. My advice is for you to find a good, reliable source, preferably straight from a shoot because it's cheaper, and give it a go - it's a healthy, low fat option, which is drug free.

Along with a lot of other people, we survived Christmas. I went down with a cold on Christmas Eve and my

daughter lasted till Boxing Day. Thank goodness that my wife's immune system was good and she avoided all the bugs and kept the house going. The other damper on Christmas was that we ran out of heating oil on the 18th. We had an order in place but delivery would not be until the New Year. So our heating was the open fire and a variety of electric heaters which were loaned from the family. I said it was just like when we were first married and didn't have any central heating. I did not find it that cold, but it highlighted how use we are to turning on instant heat! I know that the delivery time was prolonged by demand, but I found the dramatic increase in price hard to accept. The annoying thing was that all the companies had raised their prices so that shopping around got you nowhere.

Rural crime is on the increase: the top problem is poaching, but the police are not able to quantify the problem because poaching is not a category in their statistics. Modern poaching bears no relation to the concept of one for the pot; these are organised gangs killing up to twenty deer in a night. Access is forced, crops are driven through and keepers and their property are being attacked. A friend of mine had his dogs poisoned while he was giving evidence in court. Fortunately, the police have seen the error of their ways and are using modern technology and additional manpower to combat the problem.

Richard Harwood

ANSWERS TO THE CHRISTMAS MUSIC QUIZ

Clues are in the form of words taken from lyrics of a specific song

Required are the **titles of the songs**, also which **musical show or film** did they feature.

CLUE	TITLE OF SONG	SHOW / FILM
1 The truth is I never left you	Don't cry for me Argentina	Evita
2 Chicks and ducks and	Surrey with the fringe on top	Oklahoma
3 I'm getting married	Get me to the church	My Fair Lady
4 We aint got dames	There's nothing like a dame	South Pacific
5 There's a place for us	Somewhere	West Side Story
6 When you walk thro' a storm	You'll never walk alone	Carousel
7 No more talk of darkness	All I ask of you	Phantom of the Opera
8 He don't plant taters	Ol' man river	Showboat
9 Getting to feel free and easy	Getting to know you	The King and I
Ten second quickie	Brother or sister have I none. But that mans father is my father's son.	

Who am I talking about ? *Myself*

Peter Bailey



THE CHASE GARDEN CLUB

The Chase Garden Clubs spring and summer programme has now commenced with varied activities. Members and visitors are welcome at all meetings, which commence at 8.00 pm and are held in the Sports Pavilion, Sixpenny Handley. At every meeting there is a raffle, plant sale and refreshments. Membership is £15 per annum or £3 per meeting for the casual visitor.

2011

<i>Thursday 24 February</i>	<i>Propagation of Plants</i>	<i>Alan Eason</i>
<i>Thursday 31 March</i>	<i>Nature's Way</i>	<i>Margaret Quinn</i>
<i>Thursday 28 April</i>	<i>Annual dinner at the Horseshoe</i>	<i>Members only</i>

Garden Visits: May - July 2011

Thursday 26 May. Visit to Stanbridge Mill near Gussage All Saints. Located on the B3078 to Cranborne, 150 yards from Horton Inn. Post Code BH21 5EP.

Thursday 30 June. Visit Cottage Row, Tarrant Gunville.

Thursday 28 July. Visit 357 Ringwood Road, Ferndown.

All visits: arrival time 7.00 pm to 7.30 pm. There is a small charge of £2 for refreshments. Casual visitors will be required to pay £3 entry plus the refreshment charge. For further details regarding these visits please contact either of the people below:

Gill Carter 01725 552030, or Louise Walford 01725 516384

HELP TOMORROW TAKE SHAPE 2011 Census coming to a letterbox near you

On 27 March 2011, all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census. Since 1801 a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose (except in 1941 during the war). The census provides an excellent source of information about the population. This enables central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to identify need for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come.

Did you know that supermarkets use census statistics to work out the kind of foods they need to sell to keep local communities stocked up with their favourites? Water companies use the census data to plan the pipes for clean and wastewater – to make sure there's enough for everyone. Fire brigades and the police use census data to help communities, putting fire alarms and crime prevention measures in specific areas. The benefits are far reaching.

The census statistics also feed into the allocation of funding for local authorities and play a major part in identifying need for local services in communities, so it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible. When the questionnaire envelope comes through the door you'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it. If, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code is on the front of the questionnaire.

The 2011 Census doesn't want anyone to fall behind – so there is a wide range of help options available (such as language guidance booklets, large print format, Text Relay and census field staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres).

More information about the 2011 Census can be found at: www.census.gov.uk

Jackie Custard
2011 Census Area Manager
email: K110@census.gov.uk

Military Manoeuvres

From 1940 onwards, the Parish of Sixpenny Handley and the surrounding countryside was frequently used as a training ground by the British army. The first group of soldiers I remember were a signals unit of Grenadier Guards. They were camped in church field by the north wall of the churchyard and with them they had a small battery operated aldis-type lamp, mounted on a small tripod. Primitive by today's standards! With this they would flash morse code messages to another unit situated on high ground, which could probably have been in the Cobley or East Woodyates area.

On another occasion a battery of field guns of the Royal Artillery were dug in for a few days at the same location. I remember an exercise with the local Home Guard ending as bad tempered affair. There was also a tendency for soldiers to sleep in graveyards for their own protection during wartime. Perhaps it makes sense - not that I would have been very keen on that.

From then on over the years up to 6th June 1944, hundreds of soldiers must have trained in this area. Tanks, Infantry and parachutists dressed as German soldiers: it was all very realistic. One summer evening, six parachutists landed on the allotments, opposite Common Road. The mission was to destroy the communications centre, "the Post Office", which, at that time, was run by the postmistress, Edith Adams, and situated in a house opposite the War Memorial. After a while there was a loud explosion, and therefore we assumed the mission was successful.

Another favourite exercise was to transport small groups of troops there with very few clothes, no food, no maps, no money, and no transport of any kind. They then had to find their way back to base, which could

have been anywhere in the south of England. Apple orchards and gardens were often raided and the odd chicken disappeared, but who could begrudge them that.

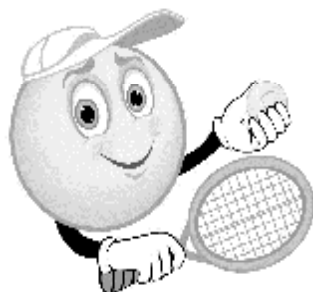
I have a vivid recollection of one rather large exercise which had been going on for several days and nights. One winter's morning, barely daylight, we heard the sound of bagpipes. Looking across to Stocks Corner, marching from the woods towards the village was a Company of soldiers from some Scottish Regiment, led by a lone piper. When they came close it was obvious that they had been living rough, as they were bedraggled, wet, dirty, unshaven and very hungry. It was a sobering sight. Many people along Common Road ran out with cups of tea, loaves of bread, or whatever could spare. The war did help to bring people closer together in a common cause - pity it does not happen now in peacetime.

Military exercises continued over the years prior to D-Day. By early June 1944 everything became very quiet and a great silence had settled over countryside. There was not a soldier or military vehicle to be seen. On the evening of 5th June 1944 it became obvious what was happening. The sky was full of aircraft flying south. These were mainly troop carrying planes with others towing gliders full of men. Here before our eyes was history in the making; a one-off never to be repeated. On the following day, 6th June, radio newscasters announced the invasion of Normandy.

From then on, the village returned to a more mundane way of life, the magic and excitement gone for ever.

Peter Bailey

Sixpenny Handley Tennis Club



Sunday 10am to 12noon

Adult Club Session

Come along and have a game of doubles
Starting Sunday 18th April.

New members welcome, for further details please
contact Tracey Lownds 01725 552414

1st Woodcutts News

15th January 2011

Updates from the Home Front!



Despite the lack of a proper home, a heavy snowfall or two and the distraction of a visit from Father Christmas, all sections of the Woodcutts Scouts have been up to allsorts and enthusiasm has, as always, remained high.

Last term was finished with Christmas parties for the Explorers and Scouts and one for the Beavers and Cubs. It was a great night, with loads of food and plenty of traditional games. The Group Carol Concert was held in the superb and atmospheric earth house at the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne. We had a great turnout despite it being a bitterly cold day.

However, the main excitement is the anticipated return to the new Scout HQ which will hopefully be by Easter.

But now we thought we'd give you a flavour of what we have all been up to.

Beavers

Woodcutts Beavers are now entering their 5th year; 2011 is also the 25th anniversary of the acceptance of Beavers into the Scouting Association. The Beavers will be looking at ways to celebrate this at the end of the spring term.

This term there will be a big push towards ensuring the children have completed all of the activities to achieve the Challenge badges needed to gain their Chief Scout's Bronze Award and many children are very close to doing this already. The focus badges will be Promise, Friendship and Fitness.

Recent Beaver activities have had the children working towards their safety badges, learning about making 999 calls, how to deal with

hypothermia, how to stay safe in the event of a fire and spotting the dangers in the kitchen.

Without having to commit a single offence, the Beavers had a visit from the local Police Support Team. They had the chance to see inside a police car, have their dabs (fingerprints) taken, and were shown the equipment that is carried by a Police Officer!

On a more serious note, the Beavers and Cubs had their yearly outing to the Tivoli Theatre in Wimborne for the panto. This was the best so far, as there was lots of laughter coming from the children.

Cubs

Recent badge work with the group has seen many Scout-awarded badges and picking up new skills such as Communications, Astronomy, Road Safety and Map Reader badges. Collector, Book Reader, Chef badges, DIY, Equestrian, and a first stage music badge.

Despite all the hard work, the cubs have still managed to have a lot of fun. Notable events last term were the preparation and cooking of Maori bread, a visit from the local constabulary, a film night at the Pavilion, the Christmas party and the trip to the Pantomime.

The Cubs will continue to focus on badge work; in particular, the challenge badges as we aim to get our first Cubs eligible for Chief Scouts awards.

1st Woodcutts Scouts, Handley Common, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury. SP5 5NJ

<http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk>

1st Woodcutts News

15th January 2011

Explorers

In this term's programme we hope to be running a first aid training day for Explorers and we will also have an astronomy theme, looking at how we can use umbrellas. Those who have followed the BBC astronomy nights might understand: if not.... Clouds permitting, we will also be looking at some of the stars and planets which are visible and may even get to taking some photos and creating our own mini Orrery and possibly a mini planetarium.

Carol Singing



Our apologies are due for not subjecting the village to the dulcet tones of the Scouts' carol singing. Despite the more tuneful and exuberant members of the Scouts and their families exercising their vocal chords in readiness for the winter chill, the weather beat us this year. The heavy snow unfortunately prevented us

entertaining you on your doorstep! Father Christmas was planning on a few late deliveries and the local huskies stayed indoors

We will return next year, singing from the back of a 4x4, a sleigh and a skidoo if necessary, so hang on to your loose change and be ready to hear our angelic voices on your doorstep next December. We promise to sing 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' (or your choice of carol) even louder and better especially for you!

New HQ latest

Building work continues at the HQ and if you have driven past lately you will have seen that the outside of the new HQ is beginning to look like the finished article. The pictures below show the front with main entrance and parking area (left) and the side with veranda and doors opening onto the field. The breeze block walls will be clad with weatherboarding.

Later in the year there will be an official opening, giving everyone a chance to look around.



Age 6-8
Wednesday 5 to 6pm
Denise Turner (Willow)
01725 552735



Age 8-10½
Wednesday 6 to 7.30pm
Andy Young (Akela)
01725 553166



Age 10½-14
Monday 7 to 9pm
Rob Easton
01725 552038



Age 14-18
Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm
Andy Turner
01725 552735

Group Scout Leader
John Curtis
01725 552397

1st Woodcutts Scouts, Handley Common, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury. SP5 5NJ

<http://www.firstwoodcutts.org.uk>

SHMUC Report

Sixpenny Handley Musician's Circle

At our last session, on Sunday 24th October, we had several new musicians join in the fun. Predominantly rock music was played, with the odd foray into folk, jazz, vaudeville and rock & roll. Everyone seemed to enjoy the music and to be able to play without pressure, improvise and experiment as the mood took them.

This session took place at the Sports Pavilion in Sixpenny Handley, which will be the venue until the spring, when the needs of the sports clubs and, perhaps, our swelling numbers will necessitate a move to other premises.

We do hope that any of our local musicians and singers who have yet to look in, will drop by for the odd session. Please do not feel that you have to attend every session, just come in when you can for as long as you feel able. This is a very free and easy evening, and each session will be different in feel, depending on who turns up on the night.

As stated before **any** style of music is OK, the more varied the better. Just come along with everything you need to play, and music or chord charts, if you would like others to accompany.

The future dates, **always the fourth Sunday of the month**, are as follows:

Sunday 27th February Sunday 27th March 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm

Cost £2.00 per person - tea & coffee available at no charge

Venue: The Sports Pavilion Sixpenny Handley

More information from David Heath: 01725 516478 david@heathfamily.plus.com

Chalke Valley Churches

Living with Integrity in Today's World – Some Thinking for Lent!

During Lent there will be a series of sermons repeated along the valley, to help us in our thinking. There will also be workshops on Saturday 9th April (see David Henley's article in Chalke Talk or check the Benefice website nearer the time www.chalkvalley.org.uk). The morning will start at 9.30 am with coffee and pastries and culminate with a lunch. Booking will be very helpful to aid catering for workshops and lunches. You can phone Katie-Jayne Jennings for more details on 01722 781200. The following day there will be a valley-wide service and breakfast starting at 10.00 am, with a sermon from Vernon White on the challenge of living with integrity in today's world. Both mornings will be held in Coombe Bissett Village Hall. All the sermons and recommended books will also later be posted on the Website! For the younger worshiper, there is the most fantastic clown coming along to do a show and workshops. All his routines have some Christian basis, story or punchline. He has won many awards and is very unique in being a member of the clergy and a clown, all in one!

The six sermon titles are :

Faith in the Public Domain – what place has religion in our national life?	<i>David Henley</i>
Money – root of all evil? Bankers, gamblers, savers and me.	<i>Alison Williams</i>
Dying well? Is Euthanasia the answer?	<i>Jenny Taylor</i>
Faith in our multi-cultural environment.	<i>Roger Redding</i>
Spirituality without Church? Church without spirituality?	<i>Jackie Lowe</i>
Finding the well-spring – living "lightly" on earth.	<i>Lavender Buckland</i>

Saturday 12th March 2011: ahab in concert: 8pm

This London based young alt country band is really going places! They caught the eye and ear of legendary broadcaster 'Whispering' Bob Harris at last year's Cropredy festival. He loved their performance and immediately booked them to appear on his Saturday night session due to be transmitted on 5 February. Coinciding with this, the band released a new single on 31 January.

ahab will be in concert at Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall on Saturday 12th March

Tickets are only £10 each in advance (£12 on the door) from Paul Sampson at West End Cottage, Ebbesbourne Wake or from Judith at Fry's shop. If you'd like more information ring 780717 or look on www.ebbesbournefolk.org.uk. There are samples of ahab's music on www.ahabofficial.com.

Sixpenny Handley First School News

On the 4th and 5th November, Sixpenny Handley First School was visited by Ofsted. This visit was expected as Ofsted inspects schools every three years and our last inspection was in September 2007. We had two Inspectors, although there was one who only stayed for half a day to focus on Safeguarding. The inspection began with a tour of the school and then the hard work began! There were lengthy discussions, data and performance analysis, policy and procedure checks, lesson observations and discussions with staff, pupils and parents (to name a few!!). There were also questionnaires distributed to staff, pupils and parents/carers. Over the course of the two days all of this evidence was used to grade the school on particular outcomes/areas, and at the end of the process we were

awarded an overall grade. The feedback was incredibly positive and we were very proud to achieve a Grade 1 which is an 'Outstanding' grade. The school, over the course of 3 years, has jumped two grades from 'Satisfactory' to 'Outstanding' (which is very rare!). This is all down to the tremendous hard work of the staff, children and parents who support the school so diligently. The report is a fantastic read and you can access it via our website www.sixpennyhandley.dorset.sch.uk or go directly to Ofsted www.ofsted.gov.uk. My thanks go to the whole school community for a tremendous result which has recognised the successfulness of our thriving and happy village school.

Mrs Hewitt (Headteacher)

On Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th December, Sixpenny Handley First School presented the vibrant representation of the Christmas Nativity, "Bethlehem's Buzzin' ", where a group of wayward market stall traders see the birth of the new born king as a profitable event. However they are soon guided by loyal shepherds and noble kings to learn and recognise what joy can come from generosity and kindness. With the Angels hurrying down the hillside and the stable animals celebrating the birth of Baby Jesus, Bethlehem, as well as Sixpenny Handley First School, really was Buzzin'! All the children in the school had an important part to play in the production and all enjoyed performing to the parents and friends of the school. With an excellent reception, money was raised to go towards the school funds.

We made our own party hats, ready to wear on party day. We used gold card, glitter and feathers.



We wore our party clothes to school for the day. In the hall we played 'pass the parcel' and 'musical statues'. When we unwrapped each layer of the parcel there was a forfeit inside and we had to do lots of fun things - we even had to dress Mrs Hewitt up in some winter clothes! We did lots of dancing and had a brilliant day.

We had our own Christmas lunch together in the hall. We had turkey, stuffing, carrots and potatoes. We even had crackers to pull. We had a lovely Christmas at school.



Family Fortunes

As part of their theme, 'Lights, Camera, Action', the Years 3 and 4 children at Sixpenny Handley organised their own version of Family Fortunes for their parents and families to watch. The project involved the children visiting Salisbury to ask 100 people the questions in their survey, selling tickets, organising prizes, making props/sound effects and presenting the show. They invited two staff members and their families to become the contestants – the battle between the Hewitts and the Alfords was on! The children worked really hard and put on a very professional show. Well done to 'The Alfords'; it was a clear win!

Chalke Valley Churches

Spring Supper

Thursday 3rd March 7pm Coombe Bissett Hall

Chris Mould runs the Trussell Trust Charity in Salisbury. Prior to that he was chief executive of Salisbury District Hospital.

He is a committed Christian and was a popular speaker at the Men's Breakfast here in the Chalke Valley.

Chris will be speaking on "*The Big Society and me*". He will be exploring what the Christian faith says about community engagement and how we can respond to the coalition government's policy - if we think we should at all, of course!

Chris is Director of The Trussell Trust, www.trusselltrust.org, a Salisbury-based Christian charity that designs and develops community based projects which tackle poverty. Initiatives include the foodbank which feeds people in crisis. The Trust has launched 81 foodbank projects since 2004 working with local churches and their communities right across the UK. Chris is also a partner in the Shaftesbury Partnership, www.shaftesburypartnership.org, a social business whose mission is to create and inspire trailblazing social reforms that empower communities by tackling disadvantage and generating opportunity.

He spent 20 years working in the NHS and was Chief Executive of the Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust between 1992 and 2001. He then moved into the Police as Chief Executive of a national body responsible for police training across England and Wales. He is a committed Christian and married to Angela and they have 4 daughters.

His talk will look at what the Bible says about individuals and society and particularly to set out the challenge that Christians have an obligation to engage in support of the poorest and most marginalised and to lead the rest of the community around us in doing so.

He has also run several marathons for the Trussell Trust.

Tickets will be available from 24th January from the Post Offices in Broad Chalke and Coombe Bissett as well as from Katie-Jayne Jennings, Fiona Stacey, Alison Williams, Janet Roe, Sarah Panes, Debbie Underhill and Wendy Duke.

Tickets can also be obtained from Katie-Jayne Jennings on 01722 781200 and tickets can be paid for by cheque and posted out. The cost is £10. It will be held in Coombe Bissett village Hall.



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Rob's Column

Winter Time

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and the
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled,
(or postman's van) explore
The colder countries round the door.

Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad
And tree and house, and hill and lake
Are frosted like a wedding-cake.
(The post must get through)

*(Verses from Winter Time by
Robert Louis Stevenson)*

Just got home and found all the doors
and windows open and everything
gone!!
What kind of person does that to
someone's Advent calendar?

The Land of Nod

From breakfast on through all the day
At home among my friends I stay,
But every night I go abroad
Afar into the land of Nod.

All by myself I have to go
With none to tell me what to do—
All alone beside the streams
And up the mountain-sides of dreams.

The strangest things are there for me
Both things to eat and things to see,
And many frightening sights abroad
Till morning in the land of Nod.

Try as I like to find the way,
I never can get back by day,
Nor can remember plain and clear
The curious music that I hear.

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

An old man walks into the pub and
says to the landlord, "I'm 62."
"Congratulations," says the landlord.
"There are a couple of drinks in it for
you."

When the man leaves at the end of
the night, the landlord asks him, "Will
I see you again tomorrow night?"
"Not tomorrow, no," says the old
man. "I'm working two to ten."

I got a new aftershave for Christmas.
It's called 'Breadcrumbs'. (The birds
love it).

**Never Borrow Sorrow
From Tomorrow**

Deal only with the present,
Never step into tomorrow,
For God asks us just to trust Him
And to never borrow sorrow.

For the future is not ours to know
And it my never be,
So let us live and give our best
And give it lavishly.

For to meet tomorrow's troubles
Before they are even ours
Is to anticipate the Savior
And to doubt His all-wise powers.

So let us be content to solve
Our problems one by one,
Asking nothing of tomorrow
Except "Thy Will Be Done."
(Helen Steiner Rice)

Q: Why didn't the skeleton go to the
New Year's Eve Party?

A: He had no body to go with.

Q: Where should a dressmaker build
her house?

A: On the outskirts.

Q: What has a bed but doesn't sleep
and a mouth but doesn't speak?

A: A river.

Q: What do you call the owner of a
tool factory.

A: The vice chairman.

My Mum

I've driven you nuts
I've turned you grey
I've made you proud
I've ruined your day

I've stressed you out
I've hurt you bad
I've made you laugh
I've sent you mad

I've given you smiles
I've made you sob
'Cos I'm your kid
And that's my job

She was only a whisky maker, but he
loved her still.

No matter how much you push the
envelope—it will still be stationery.

Two silk worms had a race. They
ended up in a tie.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry
in motion.

**A Happy New Year to all the
readers of the Downsman.**

**The post persons of the village
would like to thank you for all
the gifts this year.**

**Many thanks,
Rob**



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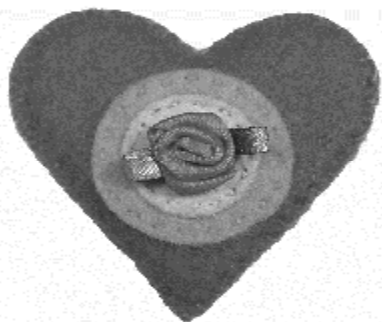
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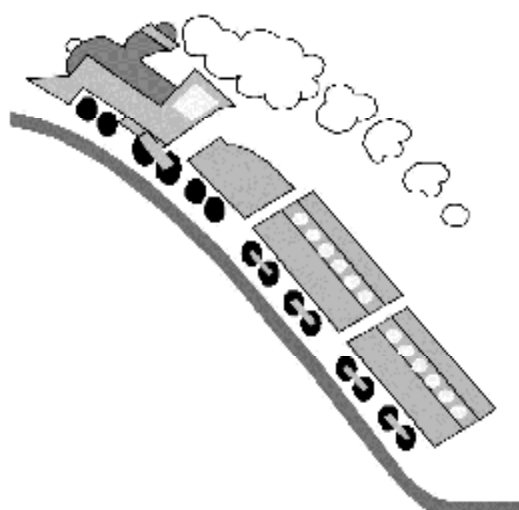
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Twigsnapper's tree tips

Look closely -
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February is the best time of year to prune fruit trees (*October issue 2008*) and plant new stock using bare rooted trees sprinkled with mycorrhizal fungus (*February issue 2010*). Mycorrhizal fungi are symbiotic to trees combining with the roots at microscopic level to increase the surface area making more nutrients available to the tree.

It is always a good time to inspect your trees for disease and dysfunction now more than ever because of a virulent disease that will be responsible for the next pandemic. The most important arboricultural implication of our age is stopping the insidious spread of a disease I have mentioned before (*April issue 2009, August issue 2010*), namely Phytophthora (*from the Greek word meaning plant killer*). It manifests itself on Oak, Beech and Chestnut trees; each of these are keystone species of the countryside and the outlook is grim. When inspecting your trees look for dark spots which ooze a black/brown sticky liquid - underneath the dark spot will be a red stain. If you find these symptoms call me for advice. The disease is notifiable so I have to ensure that the authorities get to know the whereabouts and extent of the disease.

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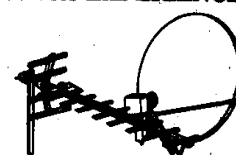
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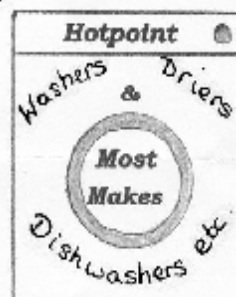
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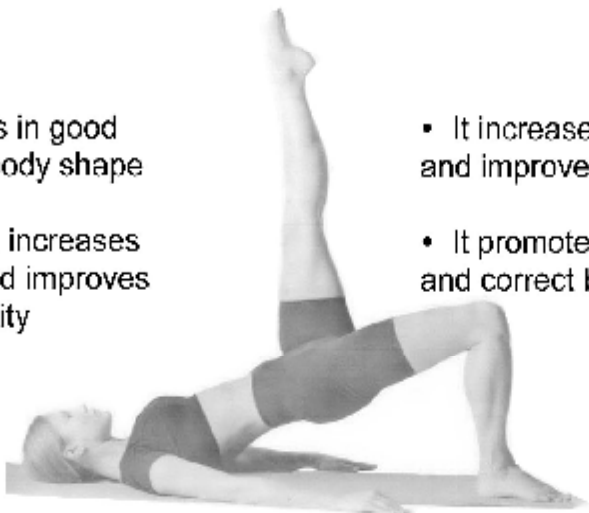
What are the benefits?

- Primarily it results in good posture and great body shape

- It reduces stress, increases blood circulation and improves strength and flexibility

- It increases bone density and improves joint mobility

- It promotes relaxation and correct breathing



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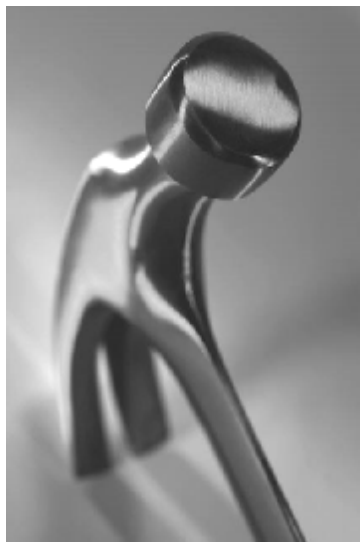
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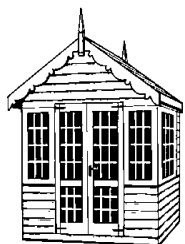
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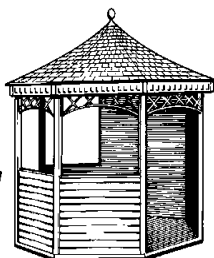


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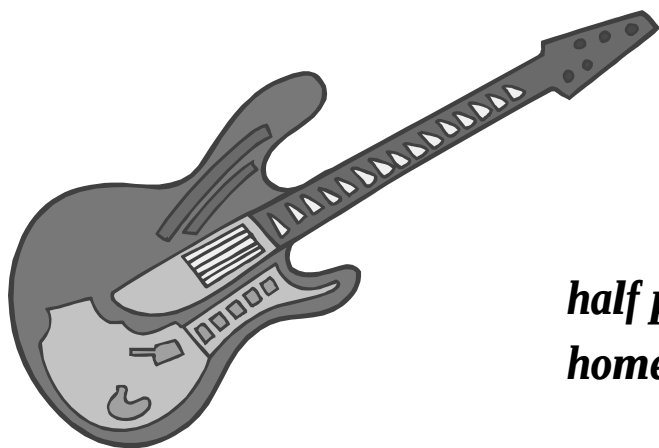
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The Downsman

DON'T FORGET WHAT'S ON!!!

DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE	DATE	FUNCTION	PAGE
3 Feb	Mobile Library	7	3 March	Mobile Library	7
11 Feb	"Benjamin's Book", musical show, Village Hall	9	3 March	Chalke Valley Churches: Spring Supper	26
14 Feb	W.I. Meeting	13	10 March	Bingo, Village Hall	18
17 Feb	Mobile Library	7	12 March	ahab in concert, Ebbesbourne Wake Village Hall	24
21 Feb	"The Mousehole Cat", by Puppetcraft, Village Hall	9	14 March	W.I. Meeting	13
24 Feb	Chase Garden Club	20	15 March	Deadline	3
26 Feb	W.I. Jumble Sale	8	17 March	Mobile Library	7
27 Feb	SHMUC	24	19 March	Model Transport Focus, Village Hall	16
			26 March	Jumble Sale, Village Hall	18
			27 March	SHMUC	24
			31 March	Mobile Library	7
			31 March	Chase Garden Club	20
			1st April	Next Issue	3